(c) Does not arise.

Corruption in country

†1182. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a list issued by an international agency, Transparency International, India ranks on the 74th position in the list of countries involved in corruptions;

(b) if so, the details of that report and Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether Government has carried out any study to investigate the reasons for the constant increase in the corruption in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to stop the increasing corruptions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) According to the "Corruption Perception Index, 2007" published by the Transparency International, India is ranked at 72nd place among 180 countries.

(c) to (e) Government is aware of the menace of corruption and is fully committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance against corruption" and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life by improving transparency and accountability. Several steps have been taken to combat corruption and to improve the functioning of Government. Important among these steps are :-

(i) Enactment of Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003;

(ii) Enactment of Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;

(iii) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;

(iv) The pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance;

(v) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting process by the CVC; and

(vi) Issue of instructions by the CVC asking the organizations to adopt integrity pact in major Government procurement activities.

Government organizations are constantly engaged in improving their functioning through e-Government, issue of Citizen Charters and simplification of procedures and systems, which are aimed at eradicating corruption by improving transparency and accountability..

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.